

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

SB 722 - HB 874

March 3, 2011

SUMMARY OF BILL: Prohibits a child found to be a victim of severe child abuse from being returned to the custody of a person who either engaged in or failed to protect the child from abuse, unless the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that child will be free from further abuse upon return. Requires the court to file written findings of its conclusions within 30 days after the hearing. Eliminates the requirement that the court, prior to its ruling, receive reports and recommendations from the Commissioner of the Department of Children's Services (DCS), the Commissioner's designee, a psychiatrist, physician, or psychologist, or a multi-disciplinary services team from DCS.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- DCS prepares reports on these cases in the course of its regular duties. Removal of the reporting requirement will not result in a reduction in DCS personnel. Any decrease in state expenditures for printing or transmitting these reports to the court will not be significant.
- No significant impact on the number of severe child abuse cases heard in the juvenile court system.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "James W. White".

James W. White, Executive Director

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